

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0912

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UN, US, AR
SUBJ: SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR ORTIZ DE ROZAS AND
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE LEONARD MET ON MARCH 25 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS
ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
SPECIAL SESSION ON DIARMAMENT (SSOD). ORTIZ EXPRESSED HOPE
THAT FIRST PREPCOM WILL BE BRIEF BUSINESS-LIKE SESSION
DEVOTED ONLY TO PROCEDURAL MATTERS INCLUDING ELECTION OF
THE CHAIRMAN AND THE BUREAU, DECISION-MAKING AND PARTICIPA-
TION OF NON-MEMBERS. WE ALSO DISCUSSED QUESTIONS OF NGOS,
SECRETARIAT SUPPORT AND STUDIES, AND INTERSESSIONAL CON-
SULTATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. ORTIZ, WHO WILL BE PREPCOM CHAIRMAN, SAID THAT HIS GOAL
IS TO HAVE TWO-DAY SESSION AND TO APPLY SECRETARIAT
RESOURCES WHICH WOULD BE SAVED NOW TO A LONGER SESSION IN
SEPTEMBER. OUTLINING SCENARIO FOR FIRST PREPCOM, HE TOLD
US THAT SYG WALDHEIM WILL OPEN THE SESSION ON MARCH
28 AM WITH SHORT STATEMENT EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE SSOD FOR DISARMAMENT PROSPECTS. THEREAFTER,
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THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR, ON BEHALF OF LATIN AMERICAN,
AFRICAN, AND ASIAN GROUPS, WILL NOMINATE ORTIZ AS
CHAIRMAN; DUTCH AND GDR AMBASSADORS WILL SECOND HIS
NOMINATION ON BEHALF OF THE WEO AND EE GROUPS. WE
ALSO INTEND TO STATE OUR SUPPORT.

3. AFTER MAKING SHORT ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, ORTIZ WILL

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE BUREAU. GIVEN SOVIET OBJECTIONS TO THE YUGOSLAV CANDIDACY AND UNWILLINGNESS OF OTHER GROUPS TO INSIST ON A FIVE-MEMBER BUREAU, HE BELIEVES IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE TEN MEMBERS. CANDIDATES AT PRESENT ARE: LATIN AMERICA--ARGENTINA, AND THE BAHAMAS; ASIA--IRAN AND JAPAN; AFRICA--EGYPT AS RAPPORTEUR, AND ONE OTHER; WEO--AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, NORWAY, AND ONE EC COUNTRY; AND EASTERN EUROPE--YUGOSLAVIA, AND EITHER GDR OR POLAND.

4. ON DECISION MAKING, ORTIZ INTENDS TO MAKE BRIEF STATEMENT INDICATING HIS VIEW THAT, WHILE UNGA RULES OF PROCEDURE WILL APPLY, EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO REACH DECISIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BY CONSENSUS. IF AN IMPASSE DEVELOPS, HE WILL CONDUCT CONSULTATIONS TO SEEK TO DEVELOP CONSENSUS; IF THIS FAILS, A VOTE WILL BE TAKEN. LEONARD EMPHASIZED THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS EXPRESS THEIR COMMITMENT TO A COOPERATIVE NON-CONTENTIOUS APPROACH. ORTIZ CONCURRED WITH PROVISIO THAT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSION, HE WOULD SUMMARIZE THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PREPCOM SO AS TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS OR SUBSEQUENT CHALLENGES.

5. ORTIZ ALSO WILL MAKE STATEMENT REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION OF STATES WHICH ARE NON-MEMBERS OF THE PREPCOM. HE WILL NOTE THAT ALL STATES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE SESSIONS EXCEPT FOR VOTING. HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT BE GRANTED FORMAL OBSERVER STATUS.

6. ON THE ROLE OF THE SECRETARIAT, ORTIZ INDICATED THAT
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PREPCOM MAY BE ASKED TO GIVE FORMAL APPROVAL FOR IT TO COMPILE A COLLECTION OF DISARMAMENT DOCUMENTS -- E.G., PAST UNGA RESOLUTIONS. IT WOULD BE PREMATURE, HOWEVER, TO DECIDE NOW ON ANY SUBSTANTIVE STUDIES TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE SECRETARIAT. LEONARD CONCURRED.

7. ON QUESTION OF POSSIBLE NGO INVOLVEMENT IN SSOD, ORTIZ SAID THAT HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THIS ISSUE WOULD ARISE NEXT WEEK. LEONARD OBSERVED THAT PREPCOM SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO SCREEN AND SELECT NGOS SINCE THIS COULD BE TIME-CONSUMING AND POTENTIALLY CONTENTIOUS MATTER, GIVEN NATIONAL SENSITIVITIES. ORTIZ SAID THAT MEMBER STATES MIGHT BE ASKED TO SPONSOR SPECIFIC NGOS AS WELL AS STUDIES WHICH THEY MIGHT WANT TO PRESENT TO THE SPECIAL SESSION. HOPEFULLY, THIS WOULD LIMIT PARTICIPATION TO SERIOUS NGOS WITH ESTABLISHED REPUTATIONS AND STANDING.

8. LOOKING BEYOND THE FIRST PREPCOM, ORTIZ SAID THAT HE DID NOT FAVOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERSESSIONAL

WORKING GROUPS SINCE, IN HIS EXPERIENCE, MANY COUNTRIES OFTEN ARE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE WGS AND SUBSEQUENTLY DEMAND RECONSIDERATION OF THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS. INSTEAD, HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG MEMBERS FROM ALL THE REGIONAL GROUPS BETWEEN THE MAY AND SEPTEMBER SESSIONS. LEONARD AGREED THAT SUCH INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL.

9. ORTIZ ALSO COMMENTED ON THE LATEST NON-ALIGNED CONSULTATIONS REGARDING THE YUGOSLAV WORKING PAPER (USUN 465). THEY VIEW THIS PAPER AS GUIDELINE TO BE SENT TO NON-ALIGNED STATES TO ASSIST THEM IN PREPARATION OF THEIR RESPONSES TO THE SYG. HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BECOME THE MAJOR NON-ALIGNED DOCUMENT FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION. AS REGARDS NACC MEETING IN NEW DELHI NEXT MONTH, YUGOSLAVS HAD TOLD THEIR NON-ALIGNED COLLEAGUES HERE THAT THEY DO NOT ANTICIPATE IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SPECIAL SESSION. INSTEAD, NACC WILL PROBABLY DRAFT A SHORT STATEMENT EXPRESSING HOPES FOR THE SSOD TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO ITS DISARMAMENT OBJECTIVES.

10. FINALLY, ORTIZ SAID HE BELIEVES THE NON-ALIGNED ARE SEEKING WAYS TO IMPROVE, NOT UNDERMINE, THE CCD, AND TO STRENGTHEN THE LINK BETWEEN IT AND THE UN. THEY RECOGNIZE THE DESIRABILITY, AS WELL AS THE DIFFICULTIES, OF ENCOURAGING FRENCH AND EVENTUALLY CHINESE PARTICIPATION IN THE CCD. LEONARD EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF A REALISTIC APPROACH WHICH PRESERVES AND IMPROVES EXISTING DISARMAMENT MACHINERY INCLUDING THE CCD.
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